

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Claims 1, 33 have been amended and Claim 45 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-7, 9-31, 33, 43-44, 46 are pending in the Application.

Applicant notes that the Response to Arguments at pages 4-5 of the Office Action is clearly in error as there was no arguments filed on November 13, 2007 and the Examiner's statements are inapplicable to the present Application.

Reconsideration of this Application and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 20-24, 44 are patentable over Monroe et al. (6,113,608).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 45. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 20-24, 44, which depend from Claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 25-26 are patentable over Monroe et al. in view of Von Oepen et al. (2006/0142833).

As set forth above, Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 25-26, which depend from Claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter.

As set forth above, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 45. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable. Withdrawn Claims 2-7, 9-19 depend from allowable Claim 1 and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1. Applicant hereby requests reinstatement and allowance of withdrawn Claims 2-7, 9-19.

Withdrawn Claim 33 has been amended similarly to Claim 1 and thus is allowable for reasons similar to Claim 1. Applicant hereby request reinstatement and allowance of Claim 33.

Claims 27-31, 43, 46 have been allowed.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2525. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (707) 566-1888.

Respectfully submitted,

/Janis J. Biksa, Reg. No. 35,268/
Janis J. Biksa
Registration No. 35,648
Attorney for Applicant

Medtronic Vascular, Inc.
3576 Unocal Place
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Facsimile No.: (707) 543-5420